



# CONCORD

## Middlesex County



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## NARRATIVE

### **Narrative**

Named in 1635, Concord is an old historic town on the western axis of suburban Boston. Located at the junction of the Concord/Sudbury/Assabet Rivers, Concord was settled early by the English as a frontier outpost of the Massachusetts Bay Colony and was the first interior, non-tidal water town in Massachusetts. The community had also been the site of seasonal Indian camps because of the plentiful runs of shad, salmon and herring. Concord still retains many well-preserved colonial houses, nine of them on or near Concord green and witnesses of the famous Battle of Concord. In this historic battle which ushered in the Revolutionary War, a column of British infantry was badly mauled by colonists during a 16-mile long running battle that saw 273 British and 95 American dead. Concord also has a significant literary history, having been the home of the leaders of the intellectual movements of 19th century America. Louisa May Alcott, Bronson Alcott, Emerson and Hawthorne lived in Concord at one time or another and Thoreau wrote his internationally known philosophical treatise at Walden Pond in Concord.

Concord evolved from a frontier town into a prosperous regional center with a mixed society including small yeoman farmers, affluent gentry and immigrants from Italy and Norway. There are high-style, handsome houses as relics of this affluent society along with some country estates. One of the well-preserved sights in the community is the Victorian Gothic state prison built in 1878 and still housing prisoners.

Skyrocketing land prices in the real estate boom of the 1980's resulted from Concord's proximity to Boston and the 128 technical/industrial corridor, coupled with a vigorous regional economy. Considerable concern is felt by Concord residents about the pressures on the town from its significant tourist industry and suburban development.

(Seal supplied by community. Narrative based on information provided by the Massachusetts Historical Commission)



# GEOGRAPHY

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## Location

Eastern Massachusetts, bordered by Maynard and Acton on the west, Carlisle on the north, Bedford and Lincoln on the east and southeast, and Sudbury on the south. Concord is 15 miles south of Lowell, 18 miles north of Boston, 34 miles northeast of Worcester, and 215 miles from New York City.

**Total Area:** 25.89 sq. miles

**Land Area:** 24.92 sq. miles

**Population:** 17,076

**Density:** 685 per sq. mile

## Climate

(National Climatic Data Center)

(Bedford Station)

Normal temperature in January.....24.3°F

Normal temperature in July.....71.2°F

Normal annual precipitation.....44.8"

## U.S.G.S. Topographical Plates

Concord, Maynard, Billerica, Westford

## Regional Planning Agency

Metropolitan Area Planning Council

## Metropolitan Statistical Area

(1993 Definition)

Boston



# GOVERNMENT

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## Municipal Offices

Main Number: (978) 369-2100

[Telephone Numbers for Public Information](#)

## Form of Government

Board of Selectmen

Town Manager

Open Town Meeting

## Year Incorporated

As a town: 1635

## Registered Voters (Secretary of State 1994)

|                   | Number | %    |   |
|-------------------|--------|------|---|
| Total Registered  | 10,271 |      |   |
| Democrats         | 3,250  | 31.6 | % |
| Republicans       | 2,075  | 20.2 | % |
| Other parties     | 7      | 0.1  | % |
| Unenrolled Voters | 4,939  | 48.1 | % |

## Legislators

[Senators and Representatives by City and Town](#)



# DEMOGRAPHICS

**Table DP-1. Profile of General Demographic Characteristics: 2000**

Geographic Area: Concord town, Middlesex County, Massachusetts

[For information on confidentiality protection, nonsampling error, and definitions, see text]

| Subject   | Number | Percent | Subject  | Number | Percent |
|---|--------|---------|--|--------|---------|
| Total population.....                           | 16,993 | 100.0   | <b>HISPANIC OR LATINO AND RACE</b>                   |        |         |
| <b>SEX AND AGE</b>                              |        |         | Total population.....                                | 16,993 | 100.0   |
| Male.....                                       | 8,511  | 50.1    | Hispanic or Latino (of any race).....                | 475    | 2.8     |
| Female.....                                     | 8,482  | 49.9    | Mexican.....   | 35     | 0.2     |
| Under 5 years.....                              | 979    | 5.8     | Puerto Rican.....                                    | 210    | 1.2     |
| 5 to 9 years.....                               | 1,254  | 7.4     | Cuban.....   | 38     | 0.2     |
| 10 to 14 years.....                             | 1,335  | 7.9     | Other Hispanic or Latino.....                        | 192    | 1.1     |
| 15 to 19 years.....                             | 929    | 5.5     | Not Hispanic or Latino.....                          | 16,518 | 97.2    |
| 20 to 24 years.....                             | 478    | 2.8     | White alone.....                                     | 15,432 | 90.8    |
| 25 to 34 years.....                             | 1,415  | 8.3     | <b>RELATIONSHIP</b>                                  |        |         |
| 35 to 44 years.....                             | 2,975  | 17.5    | Total population.....                                | 16,993 | 100.0   |
| 45 to 54 years.....                             | 2,946  | 17.3    | In households.....                                   | 15,576 | 91.7    |
| 55 to 59 years.....                             | 1,081  | 6.4     | Householder.....                                     | 5,948  | 35.0    |
| 60 to 64 years.....                             | 791    | 4.7     | Spouse.....  | 3,898  | 22.9    |
| 65 to 74 years.....                             | 1,406  | 8.3     | Child.....   | 5,018  | 29.5    |
| 75 to 84 years.....                             | 963    | 5.7     | Own child under 18 years.....                        | 4,170  | 24.5    |
| 85 years and over.....                          | 441    | 2.6     | Other relatives.....                                 | 317    | 1.9     |
| Median age (years).....                         | 42.2   | (X)     | Under 18 years.....                                  | 74     | 0.4     |
| 18 years and over.....                          | 12,730 | 74.9    | Nonrelatives.....                                    | 395    | 2.3     |
| Male.....                                       | 6,422  | 37.8    | Unmarried partner.....                               | 141    | 0.8     |
| Female.....                                     | 6,308  | 37.1    | In group quarters.....                               | 1,417  | 8.3     |
| 21 years and over.....                          | 12,406 | 73.0    | Institutionalized population.....                    | 1,383  | 8.1     |
| 62 years and over.....                          | 3,280  | 19.3    | Noninstitutionalized population.....                 | 34     | 0.2     |
| 65 years and over.....                          | 2,810  | 16.5    | <b>HOUSEHOLD BY TYPE</b>                             |        |         |
| Male.....                                       | 1,209  | 7.1     | Total households.....                                | 5,948  | 100.0   |
| Female.....                                     | 1,601  | 9.4     | Family households (families).....                    | 4,440  | 74.6    |
| <b>RACE</b>                                     |        |         | With own children under 18 years.....                | 2,210  | 37.2    |
| One race.....                                   | 16,825 | 99.0    | Married-couple family.....                           | 3,898  | 65.5    |
| White.....                                      | 15,572 | 91.6    | With own children under 18 years.....                | 1,934  | 32.5    |
| Black or African American.....                  | 380    | 2.2     | Female householder, no husband present.....          | 427    | 7.2     |
| American Indian and Alaska Native.....          | 16     | 0.1     | With own children under 18 years.....                | 238    | 4.0     |
| Asian.....                                      | 492    | 2.9     | Nonfamily households.....                            | 1,508  | 25.4    |
| Asian Indian.....                               | 97     | 0.6     | Householder living alone.....                        | 1,308  | 22.0    |
| Chinese.....                                    | 253    | 1.5     | Householder 65 years and over.....                   | 621    | 10.4    |
| Filipino.....                                   | 12     | 0.1     | Households with individuals under 18 years.....      | 2,263  | 38.0    |
| Japanese.....                                   | 54     | 0.3     | Households with individuals 65 years and over.....   | 1,758  | 29.6    |
| Korean.....                                     | 60     | 0.4     | Average household size.....                          | 2.62   | (X)     |
| Vietnamese.....                                 | 2      | -       | Average family size.....                             | 3.08   | (X)     |
| Other Asian <sup>1</sup> .....                  | 14     | 0.1     | <b>HOUSING OCCUPANCY</b>                             |        |         |
| Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander..... | 4      | -       | Total housing units.....                             | 6,153  | 100.0   |
| Native Hawaiian.....                            | 1      | -       | Occupied housing units.....                          | 5,948  | 96.7    |
| Guamanian or Chamorro.....                      | -      | -       | Vacant housing units.....                            | 205    | 3.3     |
| Samoa.....                                      | 2      | -       | For seasonal, recreational, or                       |        |         |
| Other Pacific Islander <sup>2</sup> .....       | 1      | -       | occasional use.....                                  | 58     | 0.9     |
| Some other race.....                            | 361    | 2.1     | Homeowner vacancy rate (percent).....                | 0.6    | (X)     |
| Two or more races.....                          | 168    | 1.0     | Rental vacancy rate (percent).....                   | 3.2    | (X)     |
| <i>Race alone or in combination with one</i>    |        |         | <b>HOUSING TENURE</b>                                |        |         |
| <i>or more other races: <sup>3</sup></i>        |        |         | Occupied housing units.....                          | 5,948  | 100.0   |
| White.....                                      | 15,718 | 92.5    | Owner-occupied housing units.....                    | 4,798  | 80.7    |
| Black or African American.....                  | 440    | 2.6     | Renter-occupied housing units.....                   | 1,150  | 19.3    |
| American Indian and Alaska Native.....          | 38     | 0.2     | Average household size of owner-occupied units.....  | 2.77   | (X)     |
| Asian.....                                      | 567    | 3.3     | Average household size of renter-occupied units..... | 1.99   | (X)     |
| Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander..... | 5      | -       |  |        |         |
| Some other race.....                            | 403    | 2.4     |  |        |         |

- Represents zero or rounds to zero. (X) Not applicable.

<sup>1</sup> Other Asian alone, or two or more Asian categories.

<sup>2</sup> Other Pacific Islander alone, or two or more Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander categories.

<sup>3</sup> In combination with one or more of the other races listed. The six numbers may add to more than the total population and the six percentages may add to more than 100 percent because individuals may report more than one race.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000.



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# HOUSING CHARACTERISTICS

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**Home Sales** (Banker & Tradesman) -

[Town Stats - Free market Statistics](#)

**Subsidized Housing Units** (DHCD 1998)

[DHCD Subsidized Housing Inventory](#)

Subsidized Housing Units: The number of housing units which count toward the municipality's 10% goal for low- and moderate-income housing. It includes both subsidized affordable units and market rate units in certain eligible subsidized developments.

**Public Housing Units** (DHCD 1999)

Conventional State: 117

Conventional Federal: 18

**Rental Assistance**(DHCD 1999)

State (MRVP: 0

Federal (Section 8): 85



# TRANSPORTATION

## TRANSPORTATION AND ACCESS

Concord is situated in the Greater Boston Area, which has excellent rail, air, and highway facilities. State Route 128 and Interstate Route 495 divide the region into inner and outer zones, which are connected by numerous "spokes" providing direct access to the airport, port, and intermodal facilities of Boston.

### Major Highways

The principal highway is cross-state Route 2, which connects State Route 128 with Interstate Route 495.

### Rail

Commuter rail service is available to North Station, Boston, from Concord Station (travel time 35-42 min; 40 MBTA parking spaces) and West Concord (travel time 39-46 min; 204 MBTA parking spaces). The Bay Colony Railroad and the Springfield Terminal Railway provide freight rail service and interchange traffic in Concord. Contact numbers: Bay Colony (617) 380-3556; STRR (978) 663-1073.

### Bus

Concord is a member of the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority (MBTA), which provides THE RIDE, a paratransit service for the elderly and disabled. Yankee Line offers commuter bus service (1 trip daily) to Boston.

### Other

L.G. Hanscom Field, a joint civil-military airport, is located in neighboring Bedford. A Reliever Airport with Commercial Service (CR), it has a 5,106' asphalt runway and a 7,001' concrete and asphalt runway. Instrument approaches available: Precision and Non-precision. There is fixed route bus service from Hanscom Field to the MBTA Red Line.

**Commuting to Work** (Means of Transportation to Work, Travel Time) [U.S. Census Bureau Tables](#)

## LAND USE CLASSIFICATION

\* (Office of Environmental Affairs 1985)

|                 | Acres |       |
|-----------------|-------|-------|
| Residential     | 4,002 | 24.2% |
| Commercial      | 137   | 0.8%  |
| Industrial      | 156   | 0.9%  |
| Transportation  | 286   | 1.7%  |
| Agriculture     | 2,052 | 12.4% |
| Urban Open Land | 315   | 1.9%  |
| Recreation      | 326   | 2.0%  |
| Water           | 646   | 3.9%  |
| Other           | 8,600 | 52.1% |

\* Cape Cod communities updated 1992

# ZONING REGULATIONS

(Supplied by community 1993)

|                                    | Single        | Two            | Multi          |
|------------------------------------|---------------|----------------|----------------|
|                                    | Family        | Family         | Family         |
| Minimum lot size (sf)              | 10,000-80,000 | special permit | special permit |
| Minimum lot width or frontage (ft) | 64-160        | n/a            | n/a            |

# GROWTH MANAGEMENT

(Supplied by community 1993)

|   |     |
|---|-----|
| Comprehensive Plans                               | Yes |
| Rent Control                                      | No  |
| Condominium Controls                              | No  |
| Groundwater Protection                            | Yes |
| Subdivision Control Laws                          | Yes |
| Site Plan Approval Required                       | Yes |
| Other Growth Limits                               | Yes |
| Zoned Wetlands and Flood Plain Conserv. Districts |     |

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# CULTURE AND RECREATION

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## LIBRARIES

[Board of Library Commissioners On-line Library Catalog](#)

## MUSEUMS

(American Association of Museums)

Concord Art Association

37 Lexington Road

(978) 369-2578

Concord Museum

200 Lexington Road

(978) 369-9763

Minute Man National Historical Park

174 Liberty Street

(978) 369-6993

The Old Manse

Monument Street

(978) 369-3909

Orchard House

399 Lexington Road

(978) 369-4118

Ralph Waldo Emerson House

28 Cambridge Turnpike-at Lexington Road

(978) 369-2236

The Thoreau Lyceum

156 Belknap Street

(978) 369-5912

## RECREATION

[Telephone Numbers for Public Information](#)

**Recreational Facilities** (Recreational sites and activities)

[Department of Environmental Management Recreation Section](#)





# MISCELLANEOUS

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## HEALTH FACILITIES

(Dept. of Public Health 1992)

### Hospitals

Emerson Hospital

### Long Term Care

Rivercrest L. T. C. F.

Walden House Healthcare Nursing Home

### Hospices

Hospice Program Of Emerson H.

### Rest Homes

None

### UTILITIES

[Telephone Numbers for Public Utilities](#)

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# ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

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NOTE: The COMMUNITY PROFILE draws information from a diversity of sources. The main source of information is listed under each section. In some instances comments submitted by the municipality were incorporated to correct and/or enhance the information obtained from the main source. However, no changes were made to those data bases which must be consistent throughout the state. DHCD has made efforts to ensure the accuracy of all data in the COMMUNITY PROFILES, but cannot take responsibility for any consequences arising from the use of the information contained in this document.